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USIB-D-46.2/26  
18 September 1973  
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UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : Federal Mapping Task Force Report

1. The enclosed draft memorandum from Mr. Colby responds to a letter from the Associate Director, Office of Management and Budget (also attached).

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2. Mr. Colby wishes to discuss his draft response to [redacted] with the Board Principals at the USIB meeting scheduled for 20 September.



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Executive Secretary

Enclosures

On file OMB release instructions apply.

NRO review(s) completed.

Classified by: [redacted]  
Exempt from general declassification schedule of E.O. 11652, exemption category 5B(2) and 5B(3). Automatically declassified on: Date Impossible to Determine.

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Enclosure 1  
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MEMORANDUM FOR : Associate Director  
Office of Management and Budget

SUBJECT : Federal Mapping Task Force Report

1. This memorandum responds to your 21 August 1973 request for my views on the Federal Mapping Task Force Report. My comments are limited to the proposed use of satellite reconnaissance photography as a national cartographic data base for unclassified map production on the U.S.

2. I recognize the potential value of satellite photography to meet needs of the various civil agencies, and will certainly do all I can to assist you in this effort within the statutory limitations placed on CIA with respect to involvement in domestic affairs and activities and my responsibilities for the protection of intelligence sources and methods. As you know, I have already approved access by personnel of the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, and Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency to classified satellite imagery of the U.S. which is acquired incidental to our primary mission of photo coverage of foreign areas. Representatives of my Office of Security and the Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation (COMIREX) are meeting regularly with representatives of the civil agencies to help them use satellite photography within security guidelines and to assist in sanitizing T-KH material. The U. S. Geological Survey is in the process of revising the U. S. topographic map series based on information derived from T-KH photography, and other civil agencies are currently preparing similar programs for my review and approval. It should be noted that the maps or materials resulting from this arrangement are of such a nature that they can be issued on an unclassified basis without attribution to satellite photography.

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3. The thrust of the recommendations of the Report suggest a greatly broadened civil applications program and I am sympathetic with efforts to find means to economize on national expenditures related to U. S. mapping and survey. However, in light of my responsibilities assigned by both statute and Presidential directive, I must ensure that the implementation of any of its proposals does not interfere with the national intelligence mission. Because of the Report's recommendations are many and are destined to have broad impact, I feel that they should be given careful deliberation, and I prefer at this time to comment on the report in a general manner, rather than addressing each specific recommendation.

4. I have two areas of concern relative to the Report. The first relates to the security and viability of the National Reconnaissance Program (NRP). The other is the ability of the NRP to meet the broadened requirements of the civil agencies while at the same time continuing to fulfill the requirements of the U. S. intelligence community.

5. On the matter of security, there is a substantial policy question involved in the declassification of satellite reconnaissance photography, particularly in the form of orthophoto maps as suggested in the study. As you know, I am in the process of seeking Presidential authorization to remove the extraordinary security protection of the TALENT-KEYHOLE Control System and place at the SECRET level the fact of photo satellite reconnaissance as well as much of the information and prints from such coverage. Even at the classified level within the intelligence community, the implementation of these decontrol actions poses many problems, the study of which is currently underway.

6. Declassification would pose even greater problems, particularly from the point of view of source attribution, given the proscription against declassifying the fact of satellite reconnaissance. Any attempt to attribute the source of this photography to other than "satellites" would expose the Government to charges of misrepresentation.



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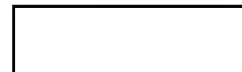
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7. With regard to my second area of concern, based upon experience gained in dealing with civil agencies needs to date, it would appear that the added civil agency photographic requirements suggested in the Report would not have a disabling effect on the ability of the NRP to carry out its intelligence mission, assuming a favorable mission success rate. As you are aware, the NRP level of funding may be reduced to a point which would allow  Under these circumstances, even one unsuccessful mission would affect significantly our ability to acquire intelligence required of foreign areas; therefore, it must be understood that in case of serious shortfalls, the requirements of civil agencies must be subordinate to the critical needs for intelligence coverage.

8. With these concerns in mind, I am prepared to move ahead to develop specifics of a plan which will provide for the maximum possible degree of support to the civil agency programs and at the same time provide the necessary protection of intelligence sources. I am asking the Chairman, COMIREX, to act as my executive agent and to work with your designated representative on further exploration of the feasibilities of implementation.

DRAFT

W. E. Colby  
Director



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TOP SECRET

The Honorable William E. Colby  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Bill:

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I am forwarding to you five copies of the Federal Mapping Task Force Report on domestic mapping, charting, geodesy and surveying prepared under OMB chairmanship. Your appointee to the Task Force was [redacted] of the Office of Geographic and Basic Intelligence. In addition, substantive experts within the Central Intelligence Agency provided invaluable support to the Task Force through participation in technical working groups and in preparing documentation leading to the final report. I am most appreciative of their contribution and wish to commend their performance.

The report recommends consolidation of a number of domestic MC&G agencies into a Federal Survey Administration compatible with the President's reorganization proposal for a Department of Energy and Natural Resources. In addition, it sets forth a number of management improvements applicable to all existing MC&G programs and suggests ways in which DOD high resolution satellite collection and related instrumentation can be applied in developing a National Data Base and in enhancing map and chart production. The report also proposes immediate adoption of a new standardized pricing formula for MC&G products which will result in greater revenue return to the Treasury from sales to the non-federal sector.

CLASSIFIED BY ... [redacted] .....  
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I am particularly desirous in obtaining your views on the recommendations pertaining to greater use of TALENT KEYHOLE imagery by the MC&G community and on the feasibility of undertaking some or all the proposals relating to declassification or sanitization of satellite photography over the United States. As you can appreciate, modification of security control of TALENT KEYHOLE could have considerable influence on future budgetary decisions on a potentially duplicative operational satellite system in NASA's Earth Resources Program.

I would appreciate receiving by October 1 your views on the Task Force Report, your appraisal of the desirability and feasibility of the recommendations and, for the recommendations acceptable to you, a plan for implementation and with what priority.

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Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Associate Director

21 August 1973

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